

A

REVIEW

OF THE

STATE

OF THE

BRITISH NATION.

Tuesday, March 15. 1709.

IN speaking of our general Naturalization, I find our Peoples Eyes something open, and the popular Mist that formerly clouded their Understandings, something clear'd up; The Famous BRISTOL Members Arguments, *Chimeras I should call them*, of bringing Strangers in upon us, and giving away our Liberties that our Ancestors fought for to Foreigners—Have had some time to moulder away into the first Dirt they rose from, I mean, *our National Pride*; for this Reason I have said no more to press forward a Law, that I see going on without Opposition.

But as we have a Temper in *England* to show our Discontents and Dislike of Laws, after they are made as well as before, it may be as useful to assist in reconciling our

People to this Law when pass'd, as it was to cheque their design'd Opposition of it while passing.—

And first a Word to those honest Church-Men, that would have the Law extend to none but those that would take the Sacrament of the Church of *England*—And why the Sacrament be a Test of Naturalization, Gentlemen? The Title was *Foreign Protestants*. Are there no Protestants in the World but of the Church of *England*? Or is the Church of *England* afraid of all the Protestants of *Europe* but such as are of her own Opinion? Are there no Sheep but of one Fold? No doubt the other Protestants of *Europe* are Orthodox in Doctrine, and as proper for *English* Protestants to receive as any; and if you will examine truly, it is not the Church of

of England, nor is it the Professors of the Church of England Principles that push this, but a Party of Men, whose Politicks being ever destructive to the Civil Liberties of this Nation, were always blended with their Religion, in order to support them; and these endeavouring to call themselves the Church of England exclusively of all others, have Reason indeed to be afraid of bringing in any other Protestants, for it is most certain, that of all the several Kinds of Protestants in Europe, not one Sort would be *High Church-men*, no nor one, unless the new Faction of young *Turrettin* at Geneva be reckon'd upon, whose *High Church* Principles were insus'd into him at Oxford, and are daily cultivated, and some say supported from thence.

And where's the Consistency of the great Article we are upon, of *encouraging Strangers to settle among us*, with laying this Iron Yoke upon the Neck of their Consciences, to prompt Men to prostitute their Principles to their private Interest; if it be agreeable to their Principles, and they can with Safety to their Consciences conform, they will do it without this *Tacit Compulsion*——If it be against their Consciences, why should you put a Force upon them, or lay a Snare before them? *Gentlemen of the Church*, have you not Hypocrites enough among you already?

You have rais'd a great Noise about Occasional Conformity, and I am as much against it as any of you; but if Occasional Conformity be Hypocrisy, is not this increasing it? To make Foreigners conform to qualify themselves to live among us——For does it follow, if once they take it, they shall always take it——If then they do not continue in your Communion, you only make them Occasional Conformists for the Time, and then they go back where they were; and if they do go back, pray, what do you get by it? If you can make a Law that they shall not go back, or can you say, unnaturalize them again——Then you have gain'd your Occasional Bill you so long struggled, and tack'd and attack'd us about, or else have naturaliz'd no Body at all by the Act.

I think, these Inconsistencies were so manifest, that I cannot but wonder, any

Body should offer them to us at this Time of Day——I know, the Bill was lost once for such Trifles as these, when the Stream of Ignorance running high, wise Men were content to embrace the general Folly that they might be in the Mode: The Word *Foreigner* was the *Shibboleth* of a Party, who made it popular, that they might the better affront that great Foreigner, that had made them all *Denizens*, I mean, King William. With what Fury did our mock Patriots oppose this Bill, only as they thought it affronted the King? How were we told of naturalizing the whole *Dutch Nation*? How were we reproach'd with our former Act of making the *Scotts* natural born Subjects? *Tho' it is own'd, 'twas their Loss and our Gain*——But Party-Spleen over-run the Nation, and threw us all into a State-Lethargy; our Politick Understandings fell into the Green-Sickness, in which pulsing Distemper we eat Ashes and Dirt, till our Liberty grew languid and pale; the wholesome Food of Law made to establish us, made us sick, and abundant Faintings, Swoonings, and Fits of the Father instead of Fits of the Mother, possess'd us——

Under this Disorder of our National Appetite, it is no Wonder, if we grew sick of our own Advantages; nor was it owing to our own Conduct that we did not cast——And vomit up Revolution, Constitution, Toleration, and all the wholesome Food we had taken in, by which our former Strength and Health had been establish'd.

But you are now rid of your Foreigner; he that sent him for your Deliverance, took him away for his own; he deliver'd him from your vexing his Righteous Soul with Eternal Clamours, he deliver'd him from the Torment of seeing a Nation blind to their own Prosperity, he deliver'd him from the Torture of ungrateful Subjects, hypocritical pretended Friends, and conceal'd but inveterate Enemies; he deliver'd him from the uneasy Clamour of your Tongues, and the Rage of the Men he sav'd——And he left you One, who I might almost say, Heaven it self could hardly imagine you could object against——One whom, *till you had her*, you ador'd and pretended to wish for; but as soon as you had her, abus'd

as far as you durst, in the same manner you did her Glorious Predecessor—And Nothing but GOD and Victory has preserv'd her from your *High-Flying* Violence.

And now your Madness has open'd the Nations Eyes, now you will receive Foreigners and *Dutch* Men, and allow them your Grace to live among you—Thank you for nothing, the Meaning is clear, your Eyes are open'd to your own Interest, and you will permit that which you know is to your own Advantage; you know, you make their Wealth your own, their Posterity your own, and by it encrease both the Consumption of your Produce, and the Strength of your Hands, nor need you be afraid, of their respective Nations, they will in a few Ages to come be all *True-Born Englishmen* like you, as you in a few Ages before were all Foreigners like them.

I know but one Scruple rais'd at this Opening the Door to Foreigners, which has any Weight in it—And that is rais'd from the popular Clamour of our Manu-

facturers, *viz.* That they eat the Bread out of our Peoples Mouths, under-work, under-live, and starve our Poor.

It may be true, that the Numbers of People, that shall come in among us by Virtue of this Act, may be ill sorted, *that is*, they may over-stock us in Particular; tho' they advantage us in the General; for Example, we want Labourers and Husbandmen, more than we want Weavers and Manufacturers; and among our Foreigners we shall get all Weavers and Artificers, no Husbandmen or Labourers.

I think, I have stated the Thing right; I shall enter into the farther Enquiry of it hereafter, and make no doubt, but it will appear, that a general Supply of People, tho' at present it may seem to over-fill particular Occupations, yet in the End will be effectually diffusive thro' the whole, and answer the great End of encouraging Strangers to settle among us, I mean, strengthening and enriching us.

Of Bankrupts and Insolvents.

TWO or Three abortive Attempts have given me some Work in this Paper, during this Session of Parliament; That of the Prisoners, which, *tho' it pass*, while under such Restrictions and Limitations as we see it now, I yet call an abortive Attempt, because it does not come to the main Point, I mean, to state and settle some Bounds and Limits between the Creditors Cruelty and the Debtors Knavery, which might bring the Thing to a Point for the future, and prevent this Clamour of the Oppressions and Invasions on either side, from disturbing the Nation every Parliament. I shall enter farther upon it as I go on.

I am no more for encouraging the Frauds and Cheats of Bankrupts, than I am for murdering Men for Debt; it is the Fraud of Bankrupts that makes Bankrupts, the Losses of Trade, and among them the *Insolvency of Tradesmen* is the Chief, that ruins Tradesmen. But I am upon an Enquiry,

what Tendency have the Severities of this, either to bringing Bankrupts to be more honest, or to making the best Improvement of the Bankrupts Estate.

The last Act for appointing the Bankrupt to surrender himself, and surrender his Effects upon Oath upon Pain of Death, was oppos'd with all imaginable Fury at the House of Lords especially, as Opening a Door to all Manner of Frauds—And now it is done, it is plain, it is the greatest Security to the Creditor, the greatest Terror to the knavish Bankrupt, and the greatest Safety to the Effects of the Creditor of any Act that ever yet was made; and tho' the Creditors solicited earnestly to have it be but of a short Continuance, *viz.* three Years, they are distracted, if they are not the Men that should get that Time enlarg'd; I dare warrant, no Bankrupt or Insolvent will ever sollicit to have it continued.

By this Law, the Debtor finds no Safety but in flying to the Arms of his Creditors——No Advantage but in an honest, faithful Surrender of all his Effects.

By this Law, if he be an honest Man, and that Honesty appears, he hopes to be deliver'd——And all other Doors of Deliverance are shut.

By this Law, if he will venture to be a Knave, the Peril is so great, he dare not stay to see the Consequence, but immediately flies the Nation, and must show his Face no more in England; and I believe, there is not that Man to be nam'd at this Time, who has broke since that Act, and not having surrendered to his Creditors after Notice given, dares stay in England; no, tho' in the most secret Manner.

There is no lurking in Mint and Rules, no Place can protect the Criminal Bankrupt, any more than it will protect a Murderer; he must come in, and submit to be honest, or fly the Nation, and never come here more.

There's no Bullying of Creditors now, no saying if you won't take this you shall have nothing, I'll lie here and spend it, help your self how you can, the ancient Language of Snow's Coffee-House in the Mint. He must give up all, or give up himself to Banishment; and give up all honestly, or give up himself to the Devil by Perjury——And give it up clearly, or give himself up to Newgate, and an Indictment, and perhaps to the Gallows, if he be prov'd to prevaricate.

And what would or can Creditors ask more? I confess, we have had a new Experiment in the Case of *Piskin*, &c. And tho' it be a Law, and the Persons concern'd sink under the general Clamour, yet I must say, Gentlemen, I would have you do as the Parliament did in the Case of the Old Lord *Stratford*, resolve, that it shall never be made a Precedent.

For upon my Word, if when Bankrupts make Agreements with Creditors solemnly and firmly, and those Agreements are truly

perform'd, and the Creditors receive the Composition agreed for, and actually discharge the Bankrupt; an Act of Parliament shall be had to make void that Agreement on one side only, and empower the Creditors to keep what they had, and pursue the Bankrupt for the rest. I shall say nothing to the present Case——'Tis a cruel one, let it lie and be forgot, that future Ages may not reproach us for it; but if you bring it into Practice, no Bankrupt will ever compound with Creditors again; but when they fail, make the best of their way for Turkey or Barbary, where they may expect more Justice and more Humanity.

ADVERTISEMENT.

WHEREAS it has been industriously reported, that Sir WILLIAM READ, Her Majesty's OCCULIST, is Dead; and now after that Mistake, by some Uptart Pretenders to Cures in the Eyes, 'tis also maliciously reported, That altho' the said Sir William, be Living, and in perfect Health, yet his Hand shakes, and his Eye-sight fails him, so that he cannot perform his Cures. These are to satisfy the Publick, That these Reports are all false and groundless; and that the said Sir William will perform the Operation of Couching of Cataracts, (or the Cure of any other Distempers incident to the Eyes) against any Pretender to that Art. He that performs it with the finest Address, Steadiness of Hand, Ease to the Patient, Expedition, and most Success, out of as many as they please to name, for a Hundred Guinea's an Eye, with either Hand, as the Cataract requires.

He would not have inserted this, but by the Advice of some Persons of Note, who have been Eye-witnesses of these great Achievements; and he hopes this, and his Success of above 70 that he has Couch'd lately, (some of them Persons of Quality, who are ready to attest the same) will be ample Satisfaction to the Publick.

He may constantly be apply'd to at his House in *Durham-Tard* in the Strand, London, all the Summer: Where the Poor are Couch'd of Cataracts by him *Gratui*.